

Message Text

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ORIGIN OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-05 ISO-00 SS-20 SSO-00 /034 R

66616

DRAFTED BY: WLG/JMCDONNELL/LAB

10/15/73

TASK FORCE:RUSDDARTH

CLEARANCE: S/S-O-PP SARROS

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O 160156Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204570

THE FOLLOWING TEL FROM ATHENS DATED OCT 15, 73 TO
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USINT CAIRO LONDON TEL AVIV USINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR COMSIXTHFLEET IS REPTDED:

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7173

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMER, GR

SUBJ: ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN
TOURISTS IN EGYPT

1. EMBASSY WAS JUST ADVISED THAT THE EPHTHIMADIS LINE,
OWNERS OF MS KNOSSOS (402 BERTHS PLUS 220 PULLMAN SEATS)
MAKES FOLLOWING OFFER:

2. SHIP ENROUTE TO LIMASSOL, CYPRUS, ARRIVING MORNING
OCT 17. COULD THEN BE DIVERTED TO ALEXANDRIA,
ARRIVING THERE MORNING OF OCT 18. VESSEL CAN THEN
SAIL, AT OWNER'S OPTION, TO PIRAEUS OR CRETE. IF TO
CRETE, OWNER WILL ARRANGE AND PAY FOR ONWARD
PLANE TRANSPORTATION TO ATHENS FOR ALL TOURISTS AND
THEIR BAGGAGE.

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3. TOTAL COST TO U.S. GOVT WILL BE \$350,000

WHICH INCLUDES INSURANCE OF ALL WAR RISKS BY OWNER.
CONFIRMATION OF THIS OFFER MUST BE MADE BY TUESDAY
NOON (ATHENS TIME), OCT 16.

4. BASED ON HUNT/GEANEAS TELCON OF 2145 HOURS, POST
PROCEEDING WITH FINAL NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL MAKE A
FIRM COMMITMENT FOR THE CHARTER OF THIS VESSEL AS
PER TERMS INDICATED ABOVE.

4. SHIP SCHEDULED ARRIVE ALEXANDRIA 1000 HOURS,
THURSDAY, OCT 18. PASSENGERS SHOULD BE DOCKSIDE,
READY TO BOARD. CONSULAR AND C&R OFFICER WILL BE
FLOWN TO CYPRUS WHERE THEY WILL BOARD MS KNOSSOS FOR
ONWARD JOURNEY TO ALEXANDRIA.

5. FOLLOWING IS DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION CONCERNING
MS KNOSSOS:

NATIONALITY: GREEK; GROSS TONNAGE: 10,700; LENGTH:
120 METERS; WIDTH: 18 METERS; RADIO CALL LETTERS: SVIH;
SPECIAL SIGNS; VESSEL PAINTED WHITE WITH BLUE
SCRIPT (NOT BLOCK) LETTERS EK ON WHITE STAC(. IN
ADDITION, THE NAME OF VESSEL "KNOSSOS" IS PAINTED IN
WHITE ON DECK.

6. CAIRO AND TEL AVIV ARE REQUESTED TO IMMEDIATELY
ADVISE HOST GOVTS OF CHANGE OF VESSEL AND OBTAIN
SIMILAR ASSURANCES AS PER SS ADONIS. ADVISE POST UPON
RECEIPT OF CLEARANCE BY GOE, GOI AND SYRIA.
TASCA
UNQTE KISSINGER

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